

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05801 210942Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /056 W  
-----211115Z 121579 /23

R 201616Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1280  
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5801

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, MPOL, NI  
SUBJECT: ABISOYE ON RUMOR MONGERS

REF: (A) KADUNA 514 AND PREVIOUS, (B) LAGOS 4375

1. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF NIGERIA'S 3RD DIVISION, MAJOR GENERAL E. O. ABISOYE, IS CURRENTLY VISITING VARIOUS UNITS OF HIS COMMAND AND WARNING HIS MEN AGAINST RUMOR MONGERING. A LOCAL PAPER REPORTS THAT HE TOLD THE TROOPS THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES FOUND GUILTY OF THIS CRIME WOULD BE SHOT. ABISOYE APPARENTLY ALSO MENTIONED "UNFOUNDED RUMORS (WHICH) HAD RECENTLY CIRCULATED WITHIN THE NIGERIAN ARMY ABOUT (AN) ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT" AND SAID THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SECURITY FOR INVESTIGATION.

2. THE REMAINDER OF THE GENERAL'S MESSAGE TO HIS MEN WAS UP-BEAT, DESIGNED TO BOOST MORALE AND REDUCE UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE ARMY. HE PROMISED LARGER HOUSING ALLOWANCES, BETTER TRANSPORT, IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY AND OTHER AMENITIES.

3. COMMENT: ABISOYE ABVIOUSLY REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT STOREIS CONNECTING HIS NAME WITH ALLEGED COUP PLOTTING  
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(KADUNA 411). HE HAS NOW FOLLOWED UP ON HIS JOS PRESS CONFERENCE (KADUNA 457) TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE WITH HIS COMMAND IN AN EFFORT TO PUT AN END TO THE RUMORS AND DEMONSTRATE HIS LOYALTY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS CONCERN WITHIN THE FMG OVER CONTINUING RUMORS OF COUP PLOTTING, AND WOULD EXPECT THAT ABISOYE'S CURRENT TOUR AND MESSAGE HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF THE ARMY HIERARCHY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT RUMORS, EVEN THE MOST

FAR FETCHED, IN THIS RUMOR-PRONE COUNTRY BUT THE THREAT  
OF EXECUTION MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT WITHIN THE MILITARY.  
EASUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ALLEGATIONS, PLOTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LAGOS05801  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 KADUNA 514, 77 LAGOS 4375  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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